



# LEGACY SOCIETY NEWS

## Sandy Blodgett and Her Legacy of Love

Throughout her life, Legacy Society member Sandy Blodgett cherished dogs—all dogs. When she found a picture of a pooch she loved, she'd tuck it into the frame of a large vanity mirror in her cozy dressing room. Over time, a colorful canine menagerie adorned the mirror's border: her first dog, a Shih Tzu named Puddles; her second, a Maltese named Muffin; and her final companion, a Maltipoo named Jesse. They were joined by equally beloved dogs belonging to family and friends, along with others whose soulful eyes and wagging tails had touched her heart.

"It was her vision board," said Tracy Porco, Sandy's step-granddaughter. "She felt a soul connection with her dogs." Tracy recalled treasured moments with Sandy when conversations invariably turned to canine companions. The riotously cheerful, dog-eared mirror became a symbol of Sandy and her boundless love for dogs. "She told me, 'Animals don't have a voice, so it's our job to take care of them.'"

Sandy's vision led her to the San Francisco SPCA, where her contribution as a donor helped sustain our lifesaving work for more than four decades. To ensure her impact would endure beyond her lifetime, she included a transformational gift to the SF SPCA in her estate. "She was very vocal about her support and her bequest," said Paul Hegness, Sandy's step-son-in-law. "She recognized this is a unique organization, and I think she would be excited about the work to expand access to veterinary care."

Paul shared that Sandy's devotion to those she loved—both animals and humans—is what defined her. "When she brought a dog home," he said, "she had a commitment. She was the same way with family. When she married her husband Warren, she was an incredibly supportive spouse. In his final years, when he could have moved into a care facility, she insisted on taking care of him herself. That's just who she was."

Like her treasured mirror with its colorful canine collage, Sandy's gift reflects a vision of a world where



*Sandy with her dog Muffin, one of her cherished canine companions.*

animals are healthy, safe, and loved. "She showed her heart through this," said Tracy. "She would never want an animal to suffer, and she believed all animals deserve a loving home." Last November, Sandy's step-daughter Nancy and Nancy's husband, Paul, visited the SF SPCA and learned about the impact we're making to care for animals in the Bay Area and across California. "I didn't really understand her passion until we visited you," Paul said. "Then Sandy's thought process became apparent. The SF SPCA is so much more than an animal shelter. I think that's why she left her bequest. She knew your organization is special." 🐾



*Nancy and Paul Hegness visit the SF SPCA*

# Message from the Director of Planned Giving



**June Hom**  
Director of Planned Giving

The old saying, “The only constant in life is change,” is a truth we’re reminded of again and again. One unexpected event can transform everything we’ve known—sometimes over time, and sometimes in the blink of an eye. No matter who you are, what stage of life you’re in, or the extent of your assets, planning ahead is always a good idea.

Here at the SF SPCA, we’re planning ahead by expanding our workforce to provide access to compassionate care for all companion animals in San Francisco, the Central Valley, and throughout the state of California. To achieve this, we offer rigorous training and mentoring for new veterinary staff, we’ve opened pathways into the animal-care profession for communities typically underrepresented in our industry, and we’re advocating in our state’s capitol for extended capabilities for veterinary techs and assistants.

To help you plan ahead, we’re sharing estate-planning tips and inspiration in this issue of Legacy Society News. You’ll gain valuable insight about comprehensive asset management and why you might want a trust versus a will. Lastly, I want to express my boundless gratitude for the partnership of our donors and Legacy Society members. Thanks to you and supporters like Sandy, together, we can help improve the lives of all pets.

Thank you. 🐾

*The Legacy Society honors those who include the SF SPCA in their estate plans. Members’ generous commitments help ensure cats and dogs have access to care and loving homes for years to come.*

Learn more at  
[sfspca.org/legacy](https://sfspca.org/legacy)

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**Saving More  
CA Animals**

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## Has Your Life Changed? Then So Should Your Will.

Here are some key categories to consider.



### CHARITABLE CAUSES

If you have formed connections with certain nonprofits, like the SF SPCA, and want to take your support to the next level, you can set up gifts in your estate plan.



### RESIDENCE

Legal requirements and taxes vary by state. If you’ve moved to a new state since creating your will, you’ll want to see the impact that might have.



### RELATIONSHIP STATUS

A change in your marital or long-term relationship means you might want to alter your will and beneficiary designations.



### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Our connections with people might shift over time. You may want to increase or decrease the amount left to certain individuals or add (or remove) them from your will or beneficiary designations.



### CHILDREN

Perhaps you now have children or grandchildren, and you want to provide for them. Or you created a will when the kids were young, and they are now grown.



### PETS

Be sure that your pets will be cared for. Name a guardian you trust, and assign assets to provide for your pet’s care. Another option is the SF SPCA Sido Pet Protection Program, which ensures that they will be cared for if they outlive you. For more information, contact [sido@sfspca.org](mailto:sido@sfspca.org).



### TIMING

Did you write your will prior to 2001? A lot has changed in the world of estate taxes. For example, the amount you can leave to heirs without paying federal tax in 2025 is \$13.99 million, but it is projected to be reduced to \$7 million in 2026.

We hope you consider the SF SPCA when creating or updating your will and other parts of your estate plan. You can continue to make a difference for years to come by supporting the work and mission of the SF SPCA.

**Contact June Hom, Director of Planned Giving, to discuss your giving options at [jhom@sfspca.org](mailto:jhom@sfspca.org) or (415) 430-3251.**

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## LEGACY SOCIETY NEWS

### Sido Pet Protection Program

Ensuring your pets receive the loving care they deserve after you're gone.

#### Enrolled cats and dogs receive:

- Medical and behavioral intake examination and treatment
- Adoption services to rehome your pet
- Foster placement, if necessary
- A lifetime of FREE medical, dental, and behavioral care in our hospital after adoption

*Annual Sido contribution and Legacy Society enrollment required.*

**To learn more**, visit [sfspca.org/sido](http://sfspca.org/sido), call (415) 522-3510, or email [sido@sfspca.org](mailto:sido@sfspca.org).



#### Who is Sido?

The namesake of the Sido Pet Protection Program was a 10-year old dog whose guardian's will ordered Sido's euthanization after her death. The SF SPCA led the charge to save Sido's life and helped pass landmark California legislation making it illegal to order a pet's death in a will.

**"For us, Sido is peace of mind.  
For our pets, Sido is a  
second life."**

—Vicky and Marshall Berol,  
Sido members since 2007